Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-6 (cancelled).

7. (new) An orthopedic implant for engaging at least one bone of the human body, said implant comprising:

a body having a first end, a second end, a length therebetween, and a width perpendicular to the length, said body including a bone-contacting surface along the length of said body, said bone-contacting surface being adapted to be placed against the at least one bone, a substantial portion of said bone-contacting surface being one of flat and convex along the length of said body;

at least two bone screw receiving holes extending through said body, each of said bone screw receiving holes being adapted to receive a bone screw for engaging said implant to the at least one bone; and

a locking element for locking at least two bone screws inserted in said at least two bone screw receiving holes, respectively, said locking element adapted to be coupled to said implant prior to the insertion of the bone screws into the bone screw receiving holes, said locking element being moveable from an initial position that permits the insertion of at least one bone screw into said bone screw receiving holes to a final position that is adapted to retain at least two bone screws to said implant.

8. (new) The implant of claim 7, wherein said portion of said bone-contacting surface extends along the entire length of said body.

9. (new) The implant of claim 7, wherein said locking element is removably coupled to said implant.

10. (new) The implant of claim 7, wherein said locking element in said final position is adapted to bear against at least a portion of the bone screws.

11. (new) The implant of claim 7, wherein said locking element in said final position is adapted to bear against at least a portion of the bone screws in at least three of said bone screw receiving holes.

12. (new) The implant of claim 7, wherein said locking element in said final position is adapted to bear against at least a portion of the bone screws in at least four of said bone screw receiving holes.

13. (new) The implant of claim 7, wherein said locking element in said final position covers at least a portion of said bone screw receiving holes.

14. (new) The implant of claim 7, wherein said locking element in said final position is adapted to cover at least a portion of a bone screw when inserted in a bone screw receiving hole.

15. (new) The implant of claim 7, wherein said locking element is adapted to be rotated from said initial position to said final position.

16. (new) The implant of claim 15, wherein less than a full rotation of said locking element rotates said locking element from said initial position to said final position.

17. (new) The implant of claim 7, wherein said locking element is a screw adapted to contact a bone screw in at least one of said bone screw receiving holes when said screw is screwed into said implant.

18. (new) The implant of claim 7, wherein said locking element slides from said initial position to said final position.

19. (new) The implant of claim 7, wherein at least a portion of said locking element slides from said initial position to said final position.

20. (new) The implant of claim 19, wherein said locking element slides over at least a portion of said bone screw receiving holes.

21. (new) The implant of claim 19, wherein said locking element is adapted to slide over at least a portion of the bone screws when inserted in said bone screw receiving holes.

22. (new) The implant of claim 7, wherein said locking element comprises at least one of a screw, a rivet, a cap, and a member having projecting elements.

23. (new) The implant of claim 7, wherein said locking element includes a generally circular head having at least one cut-out segment.

24. (new) The implant of claim 7, wherein said locking element comprises at least one of a camming surface, a ramped surface, and a threaded portion.

25. (new) The implant of claim 7, further comprising a locking element receiving opening in said implant for receiving at least a portion of said locking element therein.

26. (new) The implant of claim 25, wherein said locking element receiving opening is in communication with at least two of said bone screw receiving holes so as to permit at least a portion of said locking element to extend into said bone screw receiving holes and cover at least a portion of said bone screw receiving holes when said locking element is in said final position.

27. (new) The implant of claim 7, wherein said locking element of said implant has a low profile so as to not to protrude from said body when said locking element is in said final position.

28. (new) The implant of claim 7, wherein at least one of said bone screw receiving holes is configured to form an interference fit with a properly dimensioned bone screw to be received therein.

29. (new) The implant of claim 7, wherein said locking element is a first locking element associated with said first pair of bone screw receiving holes.

30. (new) The implant of claim 29, further comprising a second locking element associated with said second pair of bone screw receiving holes.

31. (new) The implant of claim 7, wherein said bone screw receiving holes of at least one of said first and second pairs of bone screw receiving holes are generally arranged in side-by-side pairs.

32. (new) The implant of claim 7, in combination with a fusion promoting substance.

33. (new) The implant of claim 32, wherein said fusion promoting substance is at least in part other than bone.

34. (new) The implant of claim 32, wherein said fusion promoting substance comprises bone morphogenetic protein.

35. (new) The implant of claim 7, further comprising bone screws for engaging said implant to the at least one bone.

36. (new) The implant of claim 35, wherein at least a portion of one of said implant, said locking element, and said bone screws is a bioresorbable material.

37. (new) The implant of claim 7, further comprising at least one bone screw adapted to be retained to said implant by at least two locking elements.

38. (new) The implant of claim 7, wherein said bone-contacting surface is curved across the width.

39. (new) The implant of claim 7, wherein said bone-contacting surface is at least in part flat across the width of said body.

40. (new) The implant of claim 7, wherein said bone-contacting surface is textured for engagement of said body with the at least one bone.

41. (new) The implant of claim 7, wherein the length of said implant is greater than its width.